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ABSTRACT

The organization, staffing, finance, and projected budget for the North Dakota Tri-College University Libraries are discussed. All the activities and recent developments of the Tri-College University Libraries are reviewed and particular attention is paid to personnel changes, administration, financing, acquisitions, and expansions. (WH)

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1973-74 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRI-COLLEGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
COORDINATOR'S OFFICE

TCU LIBRARIES ORGANIZATION

The Tri-College University Libraries are organized under the Tri-College University, Inc. No formal or written agreement exist for the Libraries except as programs which are outlined in the proposals to the Bush Foundation, NEH, etc., and as they are described in other project outlines.

The Directors of the three libraries constitute the basic policy making group with the TCU Libraries Coordinator serving in an executive role. The Coordinator and his Assistant work with the Directors and various TCU Libraries Committees and individual library staff members in carrying out the work of TCU Libraries.

Policies or decisions which require approval from Tri-College University are submitted to Albert Anderson, TCU Coordinating Provost, who submits them to the TCU Commissioners and/or the Board of Directors. This arrangement makes it quite easy to place items before people who are in a position to make decisions.

STAFFING

The cooperative endeavors of the Tri-College University Libraries are directed by two full-time employees of Tri-College University, Inc., a TCU Libraries Coordinator (position currently vacant as of 5-13-74) and an Assistant to the Coordinator. Dr. Ralph Stenstrom was appointed TCU Libraries Coordinator and began work on September 1, 1971. Richard C. Thompson, the Assistant to the TCU Libraries Coordinator, began work on July 1, 1971, and on July 1, 1974, will begin his fourth year with the Tri-College University Libraries.

From July 1971 through late Summer 1973, the TCU Libraries Coordinator and his Assistant shared a joint office in the NDSU Library. Because the NDSU Library required more space the Coordinator by Fall 1973 had moved to a donated office in the Moorhead State College Library, and the Assistant to the Coordinator had moved to a separate office on the third floor of Grose Hall at Concordia College in the TCU Humanities Forum complex.

Dr. Stenstrom resigned from his position with Tri-College University effective as of March 31, 1974, in order to accept a position with the North Dakota State Library Commission in Bismarck, North Dakota. Currently the position of TCU Libraries Coordinator is vacant. The unused salary funds for April through June 1974 for Dr. Stenstrom are being used to retain Robert Burns as a consultant to the TCU

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Libraries for the purpose of conducting a feasibility study on the question of whether or not the TCU Libraries can centralize their technical services.

The original 1969 Bush Foundation library grant called for a Coordinator and secretarial help; this was later amended to include an Assistant to the Libraries Coordinator in line of a secretary. This amended arrangement continued from July 1971 through June 1973. From July through December 1973, Concordia College and Tri-College University each paid half of the Assistant's salary for those six months; this being due to the expiration of Bush Foundation funds for this position in June 1973. The new 1974-75 Bush Foundation libraries grant funds the position of Assistant to the TCU Libraries Coordinator from January 1974 only through June 1975.

The Coordinator has had general responsibility for the activities of Tri-College University Libraries. In the past this has involved meeting with the Library Directors, TCU Libraries Committees, writing additional library grant proposals, etc.

The Assistant to the Coordinator has had responsibility for the systems design, implementation, maintenance, and coordination of the computer-based TCU Libraries Union List of Serials system. Since this has been a major accomplishment of Tri-College University Libraries, it is essential that staffing and financial arrangements be made soon for the successful continuance of the Union List of Serials.

During the present absence of a TCU Libraries Coordinator, in addition to his existing work, the Assistant has been maintaining the office, correspondence, and other paper work of the Coordinator. The Assistant has been meeting with various TCU Libraries Committees, finishing work begun by Dr. Stenstrom on a TCU Libraries Poster and Brochure, adding the periodicals holdings of the Fargo Public Library and the Moorhead Public Library to the TCU Libraries Union List of Serials, keeping the TCU Provost and Library Directors informed on many matters of concern, and assisting Robert Burns in his feasibility study on centralizing technical services.

It has been the intention since the beginning of the TCU Libraries project to originate programs which could be continued with a minimum of staff time from the Coordinator's office. In some instances this has been possible; in others it seems likely that coordinating staff time will continue to be required.

FINANCE AND BUDGET

For the first three years of operation, 1970-73, Tri-College University Libraries was financed by a grant of \$94,000 from the Bush Foundation of St. Paul, Minnesota. Some of the money was renegotiated to provide for an Assistant to the Coordinator rather than a secretary.

In 1973 we submitted a new proposal to the Bush Foundation requesting a three year (1974-76) renewal of the grant, in the amount of \$100,000. A supplementary application asked for \$37,500 to match funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Bush Foundation in November 1973 gave Tri-College University Libraries \$75,000 for a two year period (1974-75) but did not fund the supplemental grant of \$37,500.

The new \$75,000 Bush grant is a terminal one. A condition required of the second application to Bush was that we demonstrate how the cooperative library program would be continued after the termination of Bush Foundation funds. This was provided for by reducing the amount of Foundation funds asked for each year while at the same time increasing the amount to be contributed locally from the three participating TCU institutions. Originally we planned to have the three schools supporting the entire program by 1977. Because we received funds for only two years (1974-75) it was necessary to increase the rate of institutional contributions. We did this as follows:

1974--The entire cost for this year is paid from Bush Foundation funds.

1975--Originally we had planned on \$30,000 from the Bush Foundation and a total of \$9,000 from the three TCU institutions. Because Bush gave us only \$25,000 we asked each institution to contribute \$4,667 instead of \$3,000.

1976--In January 1976 we become totally dependent on TCU institutional funds. The Coordinator submitted a minimum budget of \$24,000 thus requiring \$8,000 from each school. This is going to be a very slim budget, and means of supplementing it should be sought as early as possible.

1977--This is the year which we originally anticipated as being the first year for full funding from the local institutions. A total budget of \$27,000 was called for. This will have to be supplemented from other sources if at all possible.

Note that the years are calendar years which is pretty close to the way the Bush Foundation operates. Adjustments will have to be made for the local fiscal years which are July through June. Dick Crockett would also like to make the payroll period conform to the academic fiscal year.

Most of the items in the final budget should be self-explanatory, but a few notes are provided here to explain items which are less specific:

1974

Salaries--The Coordinator's salary for January-August is covered by funds which are carried over. Because the Coordinator did not begin work until September 1, 1971, these funds are available from the original grant.

Equipment--If the card catalogs are microfilmed, it may be necessary to buy some card catalog trays for maintaining the supplement. It may also be possible to use some surplus catalog card units from one of the libraries. No other major items of equipment were anticipated.

Computer Charges--To be used for computer programming and consultation charges from the NDSU and MSC Computer Centers.

Tri-College University--The administrative overhead costs have been computed on the basis of 15 per cent of the grant money.

1975

If the three institutions provide the missing \$5,000 the budget can stand as it is. Presumably the local money can be spent as we wish so there is some flexibility in the budget as long as the Bush Funds are accounted for properly.

Salaries--Note that the position of Assistant to the Coordinator terminates in Bush funding on June 30, 1975. \$2,000 is provided for student wages. The salary of the Coordinator drops to \$12,000; this may be too low.

Card Catalog Microfilm Project--This money was put into the budget as the projected cost of microfilming a union catalog main entry supplement to the microfilmed catalogs. Microfilming may not be the method chosen, but this money is available for whatever form is selected.

1976

Bush Foundation funds cease December 1975. The budget is \$24,000, \$8,000 from each institution. This is an absolute minimum and will barely keep the Coordinator's office going. There will be a need for supplementary funding of some kind.

Salaries--Only \$12,000 is provided for the TCU Libraries Coordinator. This may be inadequate and some kind of adjustment may be required. Student help funds have dropped to \$1,737.

Tri-College University Administrative Costs--Tri-College University will claim none of the funds during this year.

1977 and The Future

The amount of local funding and the extent of outside support are open.

The Bush Foundation grant of \$50,000 for 1974 and \$25,000 for 1975 leaves Tri-College University Libraries \$5,000 short in 1975, and without outside funds in 1976.

In 1975 the problem can be solved either by increasing the institutional contributions from \$3,000 to \$4,667 or by reducing expenditures for student wages, equipment, printing and TCU administration.

In 1976 it would be possible for the Coordinator's office to operate with a budget of \$24,000. This would require increasing the institutional contributions from \$5,000 to \$8,000. A commitment of \$9,000 would provide some desirable flexibility. In 1976 it would also be necessary to seek outside funds for new program development and implementation.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS1974-75 Bush Foundation Library Grant

In November 1973, Tri-College University received an additional but terminal \$75,000 TCU Libraries grant from the Bush Foundation of St. Paul, Minnesota. This grant was a result of a proposal written by Dr. Stenstrom which originally called for a \$100,000 basic grant spread over three years and an additional grant of \$37,500 which would be used to match the NEH \$37,500 thus giving Tri-College University Libraries \$75,000 for the purchase of library resources in the humanities. The new Bush library grant is for \$75,000 and runs from January 1974 through December 1975. Bush did not fund the supple-

mental grant of \$37,500 to match NEH funds, but the TCU institutions have now agreed to do this themselves.

NEH Library Grant

The three TCU institutions recently (April 1974) committed themselves to matching the \$37,500 which the National Endowment for the Humanities has offered to Tri-College University. Very shortly the TCU Libraries will begin spending \$75,000 for library resources in the humanities.

TCU Libraries Coordinator Resigns

Dr. Ralph H. Stenstrom resigned from his position effective March 31, 1974, in order to accept a position with the North Dakota State Library Commission in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Robert Burns Retained As Consultant To TCU Libraries

The TCU Libraires Directors agreed to spend the unused salary funds from April through June, 1974 for Dr. Stenstrom on retaining a consultant who would conduct a feasibility study on the question of whether or not the technical services (acquisitions, cataloging, book processing, etc.) of the TCU Libraries can be centralized. Robert Burns, on the staff of the Colorado State University Library in Ft. Collins, Col., has been retained for this purpose. His findings should be ready, possibly by June 1974.

TCU Libraries Poster and Brochure

Before Dr. Stenstrom left, work was begun on producing a Tri-College University Libraries Poster and an accompanying Brochure. The NDSU Communications Office has been used to do the design and art work for the poster. Approximately 800 copies of the poster will be printed in May 1974. The cost for the 800 copies will be just slightly over \$230. The recruiting/admissions officers at NDSU, MSC and Concordia were contacted and they all indicated that they could each use several hundred posters in their recruiting efforts. The TCU Libraries Brochure, which will go into more detail on the services available through the TCU Libraries as well as library hours, circulation regulations, etc., should be ready by late Summer in time for the opening of school in the fall.

Fargo Public Library and Moorhead Public Library Added to TCUL Union List of Serials

During March and April 1974, the periodicals holdings of the Fargo Public Library and the Moorhead Public Library were added to

the Tri-College University Libraries Union List of Serials. Copies of the TCU Union List of Serials computer print-outs are being sent to these two libraries so that their patrons may have access to the TCU Libraries periodicals collection.

Expansion of TCU Libraries Teletype (TWX) Network

Since February 1970 Bush Foundation funds and MINITEX appropriations have permitted the rental of teletype machines to connect the three TCU Libraries. This gives us the means to transmit requests for materials quickly and accurately.

Moorhead State College and Concordia College have been members of MINITEX since the beginning of the MINITEX project. MINITEX enables Minnesota libraries to directly teletype requests for library materials to the University of Minnesota Library as well as other Minnesota libraries. A Minnesota Union List of Serials enables library users and library staffs to see what journals are available in Minnesota.

Within the last year the North Dakota State University Library was given permission by MINITEX to go directly by teletype to the University of Minnesota Library (and other Minnesota libraries in the MINITEX system) for requests for library materials for NDSU students and faculty. Also the periodicals holdings of the NDSU Library have been added to the computer-based Minnesota Union List of Serials, in addition to the periodicals of Moorhead State and Concordia which have been in the Minnesota Union List of Serials (MULS) for some time. Thus all three TCU Libraries are now members of MINITEX and are included in the Minnesota Union List of Serials. The reason for including NDSU in this Minnesota library network is undoubtedly its connection with Tri-College University.

With the addition of the Fargo and Moorhead Public Libraries to the TCU Union List of Serials requests for materials between the TCU Libraries and the F-M public libraries will increase. There is now a direct teletype network between the libraries at NDSU, MSC, Concordia College, and the Moorhead Public Library, which is also a member of MINITEX. Only NDSU can directly teletype the Fargo Public Library, both of which have dedicated North Dakota Library Network Teletype machines.

Expansion of TCU Libraries Shuttle Service

In addition to stopping at the TCU Libraries, the VA Hospital Library, and the U.S.D.A. Metabolism and Radiation Research Laboratory Library on the NDSU campus, the TCU Libraries Shuttle Service driver is now making stops at the Moorhead and Fargo Public Libraries when

necessary. Library materials requested through the MINITEX system are being sent daily by Greyhound Bus from the University of Minnesota Library to the Greyhound Bus Depot in Moorhead, where our TCUL Shuttle Service driver stops at least once a day to pick up these MINITEX materials. The driver delivers the MINITEX materials to the MSC Library and from there they are distributed to NDSU, Concordia, VA, Met. Lab., and the Fargo and Moorhead Public Libraries. The TCU Library Shuttle is continuing to run twice daily, as it has since November 1972.

TCU LIBRARIES SHUTTLE SERVICE

The TCUL Shuttle Service has been popular with both students and faculty since its inception. During the 1970-71 academic year over 600 books and 5,000 pages of photocopied materials (periodical articles) were exchanged by the TCU Libraries. In 1971-72 this number increased to 770 books and almost 7,000 pages of photocopies of periodical articles. The 1972-73 academic year saw 749 books exchanged and 12,937 photocopies made for students and faculty in TCU. The period of September 1973 through April 1974 has seen 610 books exchanged and 13,798 photocopies delivered on the TCU Libraries Shuttle.

The tremendous increase in the number of photocopies exchanged between the libraries since 1971 can only be attributed to the existence of the TCU Libraries Union List of Serials. The TCU Libraries Teletype Network, Union List of Serials, and the Library Shuttle Service are and will continue to be the backbone of the Tri-College University Libraries; the underlying foundation upon which many past, current and future TCU Libraries cooperative efforts will rest. We see these services as basic to the success of the Tri-College University Libraries concept in the years ahead. Continuing institutional support in terms of finances and support personnel for these basic services is absolutely necessary.

TCUL UNION LIST OF SERIALS

During the past year (May 1973-May 1974) the Tri-College University Libraries Union List of Serials continued to become increasingly useful to the Libraries' patrons and to the Tri-College University Libraries in helping them to meet their coordination-of-resources goals in the areas of periodicals and other types of articles. Beginning in January 1973, the only public record of what periodicals are available in the Concordia College Library has been the Tri-College University Libraries Union List of Serials. Both NDSU and Concordia Libraries utilize only the TCUL Union List of Serials as their only public record of what journals are in their respective libraries, thereby enabling the students and faculty to also see at the same time the

broad range of periodicals available to them as Tri-College University students and faculty at the other libraries.

Due to a computer print-out paper shortage NDSU currently receives 15 public copies of the Union List, MSC 3 copies, and Concordia 4 copies. Additional copies of the Union List are printed for the VA, Met. Lab., and the Fargo and Moorhead Public Libraries.

As of April 1974 the TCUL Union List of Serials contains over 8,665 different serial titles. A new computer program written for the Union List system reveals the extent of duplication of periodical subscriptions amongst the three TCU Libraries. The TCU Libraries currently have 7,453 active subscriptions in the Union List (some of these are held in common by two or more libraries). Of the 7,453 titles NDSU and MSC hold only 425 active periodical subscriptions in common; MSC and Concordia hold 204 in common, NDSU and Concordia hold 230 subscriptions in common; and NDSU, MSC and Concordia together only hold 555 active periodical subscriptions in common. These four logical groups of the libraries are mutually exclusive: a title can be in only one of the four groupings.

As of April 1974, NDSU, MSC and Concordia had 10,314 periodical titles and holdings in the TCU Union List of Serials, some of these are held in common by two or more libraries. Of the 10,314 titles 5,853 were unique, that is, only one TCU library held one of the unique titles. These figures reveal that 56 percent of the titles in the TCU Union List for the TCU Libraries are unique, and that there is only 44 percent duplication between NDSU, MSC and Concordia. This total number of periodical and serial titles available to the Tri-College University's students and faculty compares very favorably with most university library offerings.

The Tri-College University Libraries continue to use the IBM 360/50 computer at the North Dakota State University Computer Center for the development, maintenance, and production of the TCU Union List of Serials. The NDSU Computer Center extends a liberal discount to the TCU Libraries, whereby we only have to pay for computer programming, print-out paper, and other miscellaneous supplies. The TCU Libraries are not charged for the amount of actual computer processing (CPU) time which would severely curtail this cooperative project. During 1972-73 the TCU Libraries paid \$332 from the Bush library grant for computer charges. From July 1973 through April 1974 our computer charges for the TCU Union List system have been \$346.99. These figures do not represent computer print-out paper charges which the TCU Libraries have been paying out of their own library budgets for the copies of the Union List which they require, or for special programming charges for computer programming done for only one of the libraries.

The total value, before discount, charged to the TCU Libraires from July 1971 through March 1974 by the NDUS Computer Center has been \$24,022.62. After a generous discount we have only had to pay \$1,804.27 for the development, maintenance, and continuing expansion of the TCUL Union List of Serials.

It has been the policy of the Coordinator's office to pay for computer charges out of the Bush grant only for those computer programs, innovations, and new applications of the Union List of Serials system which can be utilized by all three TCU Libraries. In addition, since early in the Union List project the libraries have been paying their own way in respect to the print-out paper charges for the copies of the Union List and other by-products which they need.

A continuing computer print-out paper shortage and a dramatic increase in the cost of such paper has forced the TCU Libraries to cut back slightly the number of copies of the Union List produced each time the master data base is updated. We hope that this situation is short-term, but a very cost-savings alternative to the present paper crisis would be to issue some of the Union List of Serials products on COM (Computer-Output-on-Microfiche) microfiche.

TRI-COLLEGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES COMMITTEES

The Coordinator's office is aided in its work by several TCU Libraries Committees which have been formed over the past three years. Currently the following committees are actively engaged in various projects and hold frequent meetings:

- Coordinated Serials Acquisitions Committee
- Periodicals/Serials Librarians Committee
- TCU Libraries Shuttle Service Personnel Committee
- TCU Libraries Committee on Non-Print Media (Audio-Visual)

There are two serials committees in operation, overlapping to some degree, but engaged in two separate projects due to the way serials are handled on each of the campuses.

Coordinated Serials Acquisition Committee

This committee composed of Rodney Erickson (MSC), Frank Seidlinger and John Bye (NDSU) and Jeanine Moravec (CC) has been working on duplication in serial continuations of a non-periodical nature. Their goal is to assign priorities and to assign responsibility for the purchase and maintenance of specific serial titles.

Periodicals/Serials Librarian Committee

The committee composed of Frank Seidlinger and John Bye (NDSU), Wilbert Harri (MSC), Wilma Werth (CC), and Richard Thompson (Coordinator's Office) is working on the problems associated with the coordination and continuing maintenance of the TCU Union List of Serials. They are also concerned with Minnesota Union List of Serials updates. Increasingly this committee will be working with agreements on non-duplication, responsibility for periodical purchasing in various subject areas and responsibility for maintaining certain subscriptions.

This work began as a result of the TCUL Union List of Serials. It was agreed that serial continuations of a non-periodical nature would be included, and NDSU has done so. Before MSC and Concordia added theirs to the Union List, it was decided to see if duplication could be reduced or if some titles could be eliminated. Upon completion of their work the titles will be added to the Union List.

TCU Libraries Shuttle Service Personnel Committee

This recent, formally-organized committee consists of Gen Eidem, Carol Hefta, and Carl Koehmstedt (NDSU), Marjorie Moen (MSC) and Janice Sedivec (CC) along with representatives from the VA, and the Moorhead and Fargo Public Libraries. They are concerned with the efficient operation of the TCU Libraries Shuttle Service: teletype network and shuttle driver. At a recent meeting with the Assistant to the Coordinator they redesigned the TCU Libraries Shuttle Service Request Form. Some of their expressed concerns (as well as those of past and present Shuttle Service drivers) are that the hourly salary of the driver be increased, that the mileage allowance for the driver be increased in respect to the current high price of gasoline, and that a campus vehicle be provided for the Shuttle Service driver.

TCU Libraries Committee on Non-Print Media (Audio-Visual)

For the past several months this committee was concerned with the production of a computerized Union Catalog of Non-Print Media in the Tri-College University Libraries. The plan had been to do it locally using the NDSU Computer Center. A continuing concern expressed at several meetings was our inability to find a person to coordinate the collection and entry of data into such a computer system and to do the necessary work with the NDSU Computer Center.

At a meeting on February 21, 1974, in view of the problem of finding a knowledgeable, supervisory person, the Coordinator recommended that the plans for a Union Catalog listing be postponed. This decision was advisable also because the Library Directors are undertaking a feasibility study in connection with centralizing technical services.

However, the committee should be prepared to present to the Library Directors and the consultant their desire for such a Union Catalog.

There is other work which should be done in the non-print area. There should be a greater effort to coordinate the work of this committee with the TCU Film Library Committee chaired by Dr. Darrel Meinke (MSC) and with work that has been done by TCU faculty committees, and also with the A-V centers on each of the campuses.

TCU DEPARTMENTAL COOPERATION

The faculty of the Philosophy Departments of the three schools meet more or less regularly to discuss programs and problems. The Coordinator met with them in September 1973, at their invitation, to discuss the question of avoiding unnecessary duplication of periodical subscriptions in the area of philosophy.

It was agreed that the Coordinator's office would take and type the list of journals indexed in Philosopher's Index and each department would assign one of four priorities to each journal. The assigning of priorities to each journal title has been completed and the Coordinator's office distributed consolidated priority listings to each of the departments.

The goals of this cooperative project are to insure the presence of the best possible collection of philosophical journals and to reduce duplication where it is not required. Hopefully, this initial philosophy project will serve as a pilot project for similar work involving other departments.

An excellent opportunity now exists in attempting to minimize duplication of purchases with the \$75,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, especially in the areas of history, art, philosophy, music, etc. The proposal to NEH contains guidelines as to how the money will be spent. They should be considered flexible. It is our intention that the purchases will be coordinated. This does not rule out duplication where it is necessary, but there should not be duplication of expensive items. This money might provide an opportunity for assigning responsibility for purchasing in subject areas which can become an ongoing agreement.

TCU LIBRARIES AND FARGO-MOORHEAD COOPERATION

Cooperation between the TCU Libraries and other libraries in the Fargo-Moorhead area has been rather limited until recently. The recent inclusion of the periodical holdings of the Moorhead and Fargo

Public Libraries, in addition to the VA and the Met. Lab., in the TCU Union List of Serials is a progressive step toward more area-wide library cooperation. The provision of TCU Libraries Shuttle Service to these additional libraries will be well-worthwhile and excellent in terms of public relations. One problem area in regard to the Shuttle Service is the question of how extensive the transmittal of materials between the Fargo and Moorhead Public Libraries via the TCU Libraries Shuttle Service may become in the years ahead.

On February 5, 1974, the Coordinator, and recently in May 1974, the Assistant Coordinator, spoke with Elizabeth Bruce, Library Coordinator for the North Dakota Area Health Centers (AHEC). She expressed interest in having materials at local hospital and clinic libraries included in the TCU Libraries Union List of Serials at some future time. There is no objection on our part as long as computer print-out paper and computer programming costs are met, and as long as photocopies of periodical articles are available to Tri-College University Library users.

Other areas of potential cooperation should also be explored. There should be developed a written statement of policy on what the service arrangements between the various libraries are.

TCUL AND THE OHIO COLLEGE LIBRARY CENTER (OCLC)

On April 26, 1974, the Assistant to the Coordinator, in consultation with Robert Burns and the three TCU Library Directors, signed a non-binding OCLC Preliminary Agreement with the Denver Bibliographical Center for Research. This Preliminary Agreement in no way obligates the Tri-College University Libraries to final, financial participation in the proposed Mountain Plains Library Association affiliation with the Ohio College Library Center in Columbus, Ohio. The Agreement was necessary in order for the Denver Bibliographical Center to estimate the initial number of participating institutions and the number of computer terminals which would be necessary. In the Preliminary Agreement we agreed to become an access point, with installation of one computer terminal at each of the Tri-College Libraries. We further agreed that the Denver Bibliographical Center For Research may submit to OCLC our location, number of titles catalogued, and number of terminals initially required, in order to obtain from OCLC final determination of communication transmission costs within the configuration of a proposed Mountain Plains Regional Library groups which includes libraries primarily in those states (North Dakota) with which the Bibliographic Center has contracts.

Once the initial number of participating institutions is stabilized, terminal requirements obtained and transmission costs calculated, the Denver Bibliographical Center will inform and involve Tri-College University Libraries in actual contract negotiations, and ask for authoritative commitment.

The Ohio College Library Center would like to see this Mountain Plains region on-line with their computer system by the end of 1974, dependent upon availability of a dedicated telecommunications line. The order to A. T. & T. for the line must go in 29 weeks before the anticipated start-up date. Provided the Denver Bib. Center can place an order for equipment and negotiate a contract with OCLC by July 1, 1974, and provided that operational agreements with individual users (TCU) can proceed from July--December 1974, this target date may be feasible. Due to budgetary and other practical decisions required from the regional participants, it is deemed preferable at this time to say that the Denver Bib. Center (and TCUL) should aim for a fully operational system no later than July 1, 1975.

One time charges for Tri-College University to install one computer terminal at each TCU Library would be a total of approximately \$12,500. This includes \$10,200 for the purchase of three terminals, \$375 for the installation of telephone connections to Columbus, Ohio, \$1,000 for follow-up support services, and \$480 for profiling the three libraries.

Recurring costs are not easily predicted at this time, but the TCU Libraries could expect to be charged for use of the shared cataloging and union catalog system from 87.5 cents and \$3.00 per title cataloged and/or located for interlibrary loan purposes. Assuming the Tri-College Libraries catalog together approximately 30,000 titles per year the annual costs could range from \$26,250 up to \$90,000. A figure in the \$20,000 - \$40,000 range is a more reasonable estimate. Other recurring costs will be terminal amortization, local terminal service and maintenance, communication line charges, and the price per catalog card for cards ordered through the system from OCLC (roughly 3.4 cents per card plus mailing charges). An annual user group membership assessment will also be charged to cover legal, consultative, management and other overhead costs.

What specific services from OCLC are we talking about? A computer terminal tie-in with the Ohio College Library Center now provides on-line computer consultation of catalog (bibliographical) data from a call up approach by either author, author-title, title, Library of Congress card number, or OCLC control number. Changes in the data may be inserted by local users to conform with the title in hand; catalog cards incorporating such changes may be produced for the local user. OCLC is working on an on-line serials/periodicals system with

one library now and expects to offer this system during Summer 1974. Design of a subject approach system to books, remote access and circulation control will occur in 1975. A computerized, national inter-library loans system may be developed prior to 1975. Locations of titles are registered now and may be called up for interlibrary loan purposes.

The Ohio College Library Center has set up an advisory group of seven members selected from participating groups outside of Ohio. These groups will elect their own representatives, who would serve on a rotational basis for future policy-making of OCLC.

The Ohio College Library Center is one of the most visible and successfully emerging national computer library networks in the United States. Major academic and public research libraries, as well as regional groupings and consortia have joined OCLC within the past few years and are continuing to do so at an increased pace.

A tie-in with OCLC for the Tri-College University Libraries would in no way conflict with the potential centralization of technical services in the TCU Libraries and indeed would make cooperation in the technical services areas even more desirable, efficient and practical. It should be noted that Robert Burns, our consultant, is on the Library Automation Board of the Denver Bibliographical Center for Research.

It is the Assistant to the Coordinator's hope that an effort will be made to secure outside grant funds as soon as possible so as to financially permit Tri-College University to participate with other libraries in this region with the Ohio College Library Center, if and when the Denver Bib. Center concludes final negotiations with OCLC. It is possible that the \$20,000 allocated for microfilming the TCU Libraries card catalogs could be renegotiated with the Bush Foundation if that is deemed a desirable alternative to the original proposal.

Based on the figures cited above the TCU Libraries will need at least \$12,500 in order for them to purchase the necessary computer hardware which will enable them to interface with the OCLC system. This is money which Tri-College University and the Libraries may be able to secure very easily. The recurring costs should be borne by each TCU Library and institutions as a normal item in its library budget.

Over the past several months there has been some discussions by the Library Directors and members of their staffs about TCU Libraries joining the OCLC system. Dr. Stenstrom flew to Denver, Col., especially to attend a meeting at the Denver Bib. Center which was convened for the purpose of exploring a potential tie-in for the

Mountain Plains region with the Ohio College Library Center. Our signing of the Preliminary Agreement brings TCU Libraries one step closer to a national library network, one of the prime goals cited in the Ozolins and Plumb study and the last two Bush Foundation library grants.

PAST

The past year has been a good one for the Tri-College University Libraries. We received a new \$75,000 Bush grant and \$75,000 under the NEH supplementary library grant. The TCU Shuttle Service statistics reveal an ever increasing business and therefore an increased usage of the library facilities and resources in Tri-College University. Several TCU Libraries committees are engaged in worthwhile cooperative projects and there is an increasing amount of business/social interchange amongst the TCU Libraries staffs.

PRESENT

Many important decisions have been postponed temporarily while we await the findings of Robert Burns' feasibility study on centralizing technical services in TCU Libraries. Even with the current absence of a TCU Libraries Coordinator the activities of the TCU Libraries continue. Just to inject a personal observation here, the Assistant to the Coordinator is hopeful that this position will be filled by September 1974.

FUTURE

The exciting potential of centralizing technical services for the libraries and joining the Ohio College Library Center in the near future, plus the inevitable expansion of our current activities in the year ahead, clearly indicates that the Tri-College University Libraries will continue to grow, not only as a resource for local use, but as an important link in regional and even national library network development.